SITE INSPECTION PRIORITIZATION
FOR
PARCEL BEHIND 5900 INDUSTRIAL
GARY, INDIANA
IND980608210

JULY 1992

This document was prepared in accordance with U.S. EPA Contract No. 68-W8-0089, WESTON Region V Alternative Remedial Contracting Strategy (ARCS).

Work Assignment No. 048-5JZZ

Document Control No. 4500-48-AFND

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SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

This Draft Site Inspection Prioritization (SIP) report for the Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial (CERCLIS No. IND980608210) has been prepared by Roy F. Weston, Inc. (WESTON®) to fulfill the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region V Work Assignment No. 48-5JZZ.

The objectives of this SIP are to:

- Prepare a HRS Prescore based on the currently available information.
- Identify and summarize any critical data gaps in the available information and approaches for eliminating these data gaps.
- Summarize the status of the site and make recommendations on the disposition of the site.

Included in this Draft SSIP are site Figures (Attachment A), Prescore Summary Sheet (Attachment B), and References (Attachment C).

SECTION 2
SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial Highway is located approximately 1400 feet northeast of the highway, between the Norfolk and Western Railroad and the Conrail Railroad in Gary, Indiana. The site itself is a railroad right-of-way owned by the Penn Central Corporation. The site is adjacent to the Midco II NPL site, and is easily accessible by an access road behind Midco II or by crossing any of the railroad tracks which surround the site. There is no information to indicate that hazardous waste dumping has ever occurred at this site. Any contamination of the site is most likely attributable to the Midco II site. According to Penn Central, it is alleged that the Midco II site has an underground drainage pipe which originates on the Midco II property, runs under the subject Parcel, and discharges to an off-site drainage ditch. Site diagrams showing the Parcel location, and its proximity to Midco II, are included as Attachment A.

The geology of the area is characterized by medium to fine sand deposits with a high organic content. In some cases these deposits allow for a rapid infiltration to the underlying bedrock, a dolomite of the Niagaran Series that forms the Silurian aquifer. In the vicinity of Gary Airport, the sand and gravel deposits from the Calumet Aquifer extends 10 to 75 feet. This aquifer is underlain by 50 feet of glacial clay, which acts as a confining layer over the Silurian bedrock (Hartke, et al). The nearest surface water bodies are the Grand Calumet River adjacent to the site on the south, Lake Michigan two miles to the north and the Little Calumet River is approximately 6 miles to the northeast of the site.

2.2 PRIOR INVESTIGATIONS

A Site Inspection (SI) Report of the site was prepared by Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E&E) in 1987. This report stated that the site encompasses an open area of approximately

27 acres. The site was inspected in 1987 to verify that there was no evidence of hazardous waste activity at the site. During the on-site inspection, no waste other than one junked car and associated scrap metal was observed. According to the SI, the site is easily accessible via a gravel access road, or by crossing the surrounding railroad tracks.

This report stated that there are no visual evidence of hazardous materials present on site. The SI did note a small body of standing water with an oily sheen located within the site. This standing water was localized in a marshy area, and the sheen could not be attributed to any visible on-site waste. According to the E&E 1987 SI, considerable sampling had previously been completed for the Midco II RI, which incorporated the subject Parcel and characterized the drainage ditches, residential wells, and groundwater. The E&E 1987 SI concluded that any contamination associated with the Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial was attributable to past practices at the Midco II NPL site.

SECTION 3
SITE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 DISCUSSION OF PRESCORE MODEL

There is no documented evidence that hazardous waste dumping, specific to the subject Parcel, has ever occurred. All known dumping and suspected site contamination is directly associated with the Midco II site. The 1987 E&E Site Inspection Report stated that contamination of the Parcel was most likely attributable to past practices at Midco II. In order to estimate a potential waste quantity for the Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial, a soil volume surrounding the Midco II drainage pipe, which intersects the subject property, was assumed to be contaminated with materials originating at Midco II. An estimated quantity of contaminated soil extending 5 feet on each side of the pipe, 5 feet below the ground surface, and across the entire Parcel was assumed. This potential contaminated soil quantity is estimated at 10,000 cubic yards.

Several references were used to determine the number of targets which might be effected by the groundwater, surface water, and air pathways. The Gary area is serviced by a municipal water supply originating in Lake Michigan. The site's local groundwater is not used as a municipal water source. Based on Gary population figures and estimated residential well users, it was estimated that less than 1,000 people use a residential well within a four mile radius of the site. However, the groundwater has not been sampled at the site, so it is not known if the site's groundwater has been affected. The close proximity to the Midco II site, with its known groundwater contamination, precludes any assumptions of potential groundwater contamination originating from the subject Parcel. The E&E 1987 SI stated that any contamination at this site is due to the Midco II site. Therefore for the purposes of scoring, it was assumed that the Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial was not a potential contributor to groundwater contamination, and scored 0.0 for the groundwater pathway.

The 15-mile surface water migration pathway was not examined by E&E, who assumed no surface water contamination because of no visible or documented wastes at the site. The site is near the Grand Calumet River, however the river flows west to the Calumet Sag Channel and then on to the Illinois River. All drinking water intakes in Lake Michigan are not affected by this surface water pathway. The Thomas J. O'Brien Lock and Dam prevent water from flowing northward from the Grand Calumet River to the Indiana Harbor Canal and Lake Michigan. The Grand Calumet is not stocked with salmon, but population studies of resident species of suckers, carps, alewives, smelt, tailed shiners and bullhead catfish are completed every year by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. For the purpose of scoring, WESTON assumed a fishery population of 20,000 pounds per year. Using these assumptions, the Surface Water Pathway scored 13.63.

Soil samples have never been collected from this site, but soil contamination was assumed based on the drainage pipe soil scenario discussed above. There are no workers on the site. There are no residences, schools or any day care centers located within 200 feet of the site. The site area is not secured by any fencing, and is completely accessible to the general public. The total population within one mile of the site was estimated by WESTON to be 2,400 people. Using the assumptions, the Soil Exposure Pathway scored 0.00.

According to the 1987 Site Inspection Report by E&E, there were no odors or vapors detected during the visit to the site. Air monitoring measurements collected during the SI did not detect anything above background values. The site was scored using an air pathway containment value of 7. The total population within four miles of the site was calculated by WESTON to be 67,100. Using these assumptions, the Air Pathway scored 7.78.

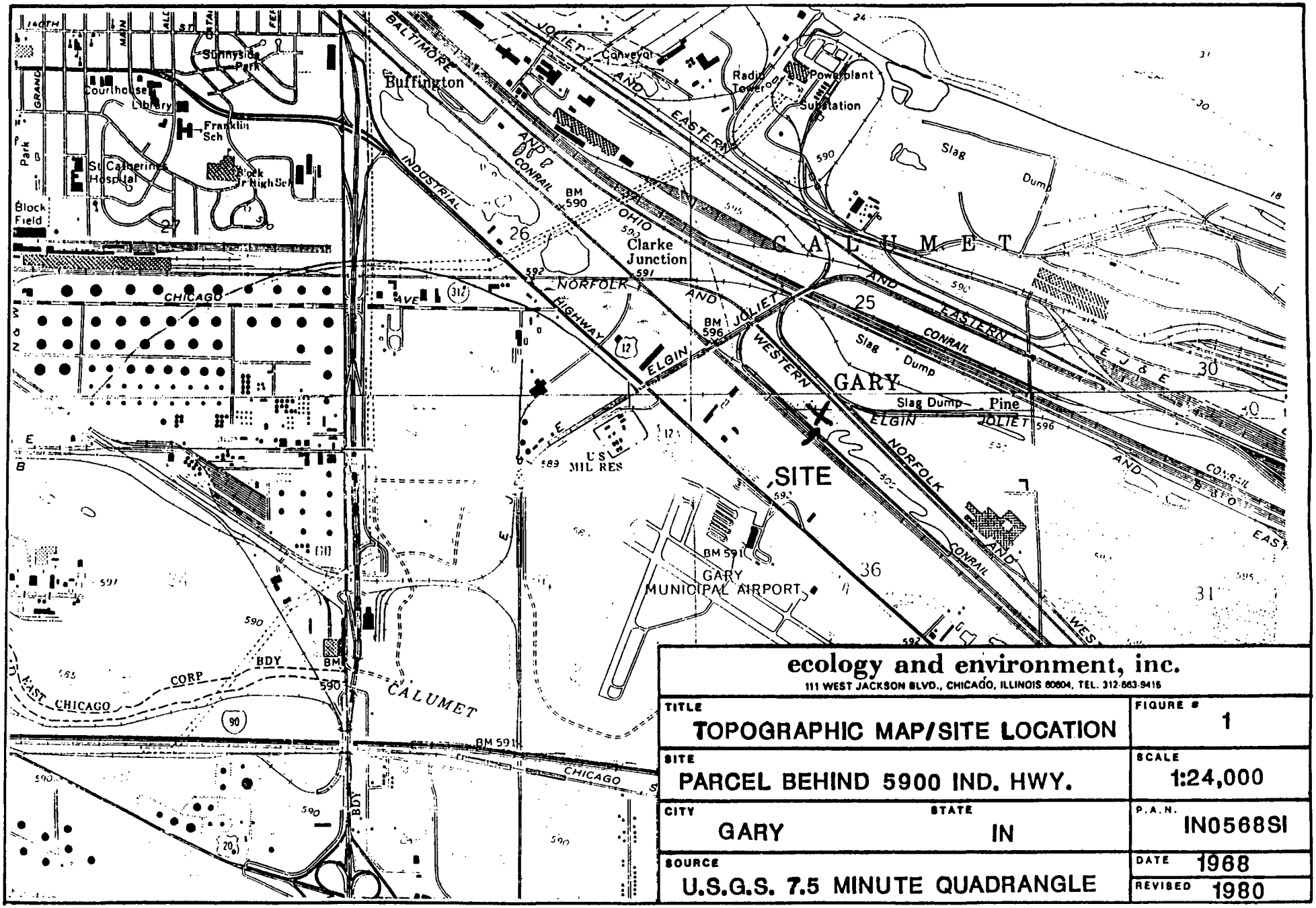
3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Attachment B contains a summary sheet for the Prescore Model which yielded a score of 7.78. Enclosed is a copy of a floppy disk containing a Prescore Model for this site, filed as PARC5900.HRS. The main reason for the low Prescore Model score is the lack of

documented contaminants in the exposure pathways due to no previous sampling activities at the site. The available site information resulted in a HRS score significantly less than 28.50. This low score makes the site eligible for NFRAP (no further remedial action planned) status. However, designating this site as a NFRAP without any investigative sampling is not advisable. It is WESTON's recommendation that site-specific soil sampling around the alleged drainage pipe be conducted before determining the final site status. Additional media sampling is not deemed necessary because of extensive RI sampling previously performed at and around the Midco II site.

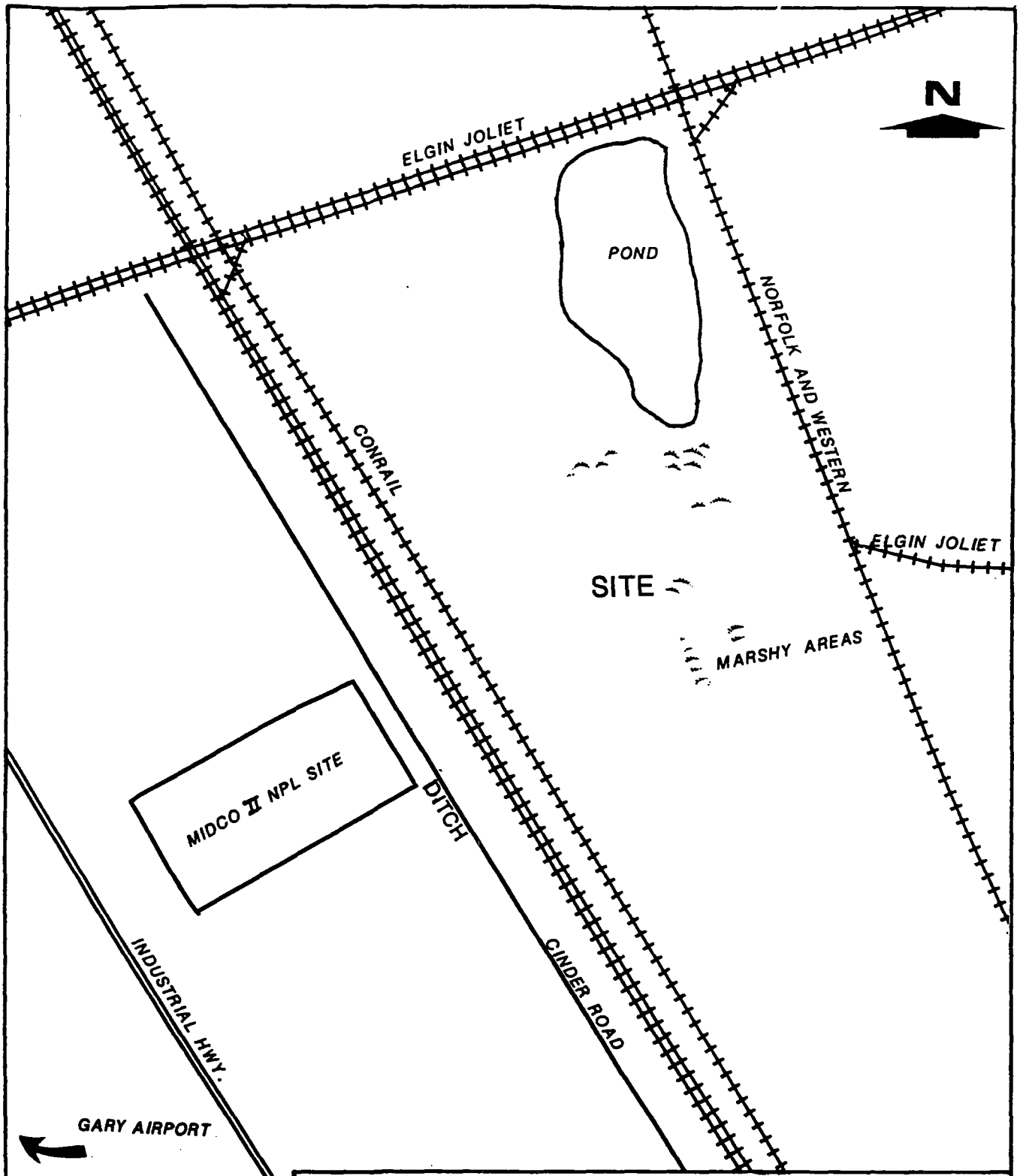
ATTACHMENT A

SITE FIGURES



ecology and environment, inc.
111 WEST JACKSON BLVD., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604, TEL. 312-663-9415

TITLE: TOPOGRAPHIC MAP/SITE LOCATION	FIGURE #: 1
SITE: PARCEL BEHIND 5900 IND. HWY.	SCALE: 1:24,000
CITY: GARY STATE: IN	P.A.N.: IN0568SI
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE	DATE: 1968 REVISED: 1980



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TITLE: SITE LOCATION	FIGURE #: 2
SITE: PARCEL BEHIND 5900 IND. HWY.	SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
CITY: GARY STATE: IN	P.A.N.: IN0568SI
SOURCE: SITE INSPECTION	DATE: 5/7/87
	REVISED: N/A

ATTACHMENT B

PRESCORE SUMMARY

PRE score
Summary Screen

Site: Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial
IND980608210 File: PARC5900 Site Score 7.85

PREscore Version 1.0				
Pathway	Likelihood of Release	Waste Characrteristics	Targets	Pathway Score
Groundwater	0	O	0.00E+00	0.00
Drinking Water	500	6	5.00E+00	0.18
Food Chain	500	32	2.03E+00	3.94
Environment	500	56	2.80E+01	9.50
Surface Water		Overland flow		13.63
Resident	550	10	0.00E+00	0.00
Nearby	5	10	3.00E+00	0.00
Soil Exposure				0.00
Air	300	10	2.14E+02	7.78

ATTACHMENT C

REFERENCES

REFERENCES

Hartke, E.J., Hill, J.R., and Reshkin, M., "Environmental Geology of Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana - An Aid to Planning, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey Special Report 11," 1975.

Nygard, Dean, "Preliminary Assessment of Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial, Gary, Indiana", Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 15 May 1986.

Stewart, J.A. and Nell, G.E., Water Resources Data, Indiana Water Year 1990, U.S.G.S., 1991.

Sullivan, Thomas, "Site Inspection Report, Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial", Ecology and Environment, 6 May 1987.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, Gary, Indiana, Quadrangle, Photo revised 1986.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, Highland, Indiana, Quadrangle, Photo revised 1980.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, Whiting, Indiana, Quadrangle, Photo revised 1980.

Phone Conversation with Mr. Dan Brazo of Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 27 March 1992.